

From: KASC kasc@memberclicks-mail.net
Subject: 2023 Policy Requirements - Get yours updated now
Date: June 5, 2023 at 3:44 PM
To: danielle.padgett@boyle.kyschools.us



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In response to the 2023 Legislative Session law changes, the school council needs to review and revise three policies: **Curriculum Responsibilities, Discipline and Classroom Management, and Emergency Plan Policy.**

KASC's 2023 Policy Updates Guide breaks down the issues to address with:

- Short excerpts of pertinent language from the new laws
- Bulleted requirements that must be met
- Action the council needs to take
- Sample policy language

You can also see KASC's updated sample policies in each of the areas on the Members Only website:

- [Curriculum Responsibilities Policy](#)
- [Discipline and Classroom Management Policy](#)
- [Emergency Plan Policy](#)

Due dates: The date the law takes effect is included on the Guide. KASC has organized the work to be done quickly, so the council could address the issues by the time school starts.

KASC will also include a reminder to change each policy through the **Agenda News** policy review schedule:

- December – Curriculum Responsibilities and Discipline and Classroom Management

- April – Emergency Plan Policy



Contact Info:

P.O. Box 784 | Danville, KY 40422

Phone 859.238.2188 | Fax 859.238.0806

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About Us:

KASC builds the capacity of school leadership teams through quality training, tools, and top-quality service to help schools and districts improve student achievement.

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2023 Policy Update 6-1-23.pdf
232 KB



From: Pam Shunk pam.shunk@boyle.kyschools.us

Subject: July SBDM meeting

Date: July 26, 2023 at 4:24 PM

To: Boyle Co JCES Staff boylejcesstaff@boyle.kyschools.us, cinthya.medina@outlook.com, Stephanie Acevedo stephanie.acevedo@boyle.kyschools.us, Ashley Curtis ab.curtis@outlook.com, Taylor Chadwell taylor.chadwell@boyle.kyschools.us

PS

Good afternoon!

Attached are the documents for tomorrow's SBDM meeting. You will find the draft July agenda, the unapproved June minutes, and 4 documents that I am legally required to share with council members each year.

I look forward to seeing everyone tomorrow at 3:30 in our library!

Pam

--



Pamela Shunk, Principal

Junction City Elementary School
250 School Street
Junction City, KY 40440
859-936-7524

"Do our best. Be our best. Leading the way at JCES."

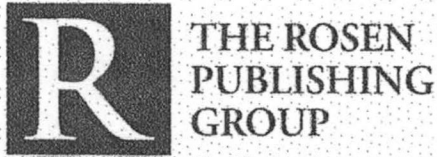
**158.195 Display of national motto in public elementary and secondary schools --
Reading and posting in public schools of texts and documents on American
history and heritage.**

- (1) (a) Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, local boards shall require each public elementary and secondary school to display the national motto of the United States, "In God We Trust," in a prominent location in the school.
- (b) The display required in paragraph (a) of this subsection may take the form of but is not limited to a mounted plaque or student artwork.
- (c) For purposes of this section, "prominent location" means a school entryway, cafeteria, or common area where students are likely to see the national motto.
- (2) Local boards may allow any teacher or administrator in a public school district of the Commonwealth to read or post in a public school building, classroom, or event any excerpts or portions of: the national motto; the national anthem; the pledge of allegiance; the preamble to the Kentucky Constitution; the Declaration of Independence; the Mayflower Compact; the writings, speeches, documents, and proclamations of the founding fathers and presidents of the United States; United

From: Rosen Publishing newsletter@rosenpub.com
Subject: Your State Digital Equity Planning Leader Wants to Hear from YOU
Date: August 2, 2023 at 9:52 AM
To: danielle.padgett@boyle.kyschools.us

RP

[View as Webpage](#)



Dear Librarian Colleague:

I have been a vocal library advocate for the entire 43 years of my career, and I have recently been asked to sit on the Board of the National Collaborative for Digital Equity. As I became more immersed in the activity of this wonderful organization, I recognized that there is a place at the table for librarians to impact how the \$65 billion of the Federal Infrastructure Law will be deployed in each state over the next four years. Here's what this law is designed to do:

President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides \$1.44 billion in funding to states to develop in 2023 and then, over the next four years starting in 2024, carry out their statewide plans to remove digital divide barriers to economic and educational opportunity, healthcare access, civic engagement, and other important inclusion outcomes.

The goal of my letter to you today is to bring to your attention an opportunity to become more proactively involved as your state's federally funded digital equity program is implemented. I wanted to provide you with a step-by-step process for how you can make your voice known. The good news is that your State Digital Equity Planning Leader wants to hear from you, and the Federal Program Officer to whom this leader reports also wants to make sure that diverse stakeholders are being represented and heard.

Please click on the Internet for All site: <https://internetforall.gov/>

Select in the upper right-hand corner: Funding by State/Territory. Select your state, and you will see your State Broadband Contact. This is the person who is the Digital Equity Planning Leader for your state and the person to whom your letter should be directed. Be sure to copy all of the NTIA Contacts, listed to the right of your state leader.

Here is a sample letter that you might want to use or base your own letter upon. I provide this as time is of the essence. This money is being allocated NOW.

Dear _____,

We're very excited that you and your colleagues are leading an important effort to develop our state's four-year digital equity plan. I hope it is not too late for us and other librarians to help implement the state vision and to close the digital divide. We would be most grateful if you could share information that will allow us to participate in upcoming listening sessions. Do you have a sense of when the state plan will be open for public comment? Please let us know the variety of ways in which we can be supportive. As I know you will appreciate, we

librarians are steeped in knowledge of digital resources and deal daily with issues of access and digital equity. We have much that we can contribute to help implement the state's priorities. Thank you for your attention to this wonderful opportunity and letting us know how we librarians can help.

Sincerely,

Robert McLaughlin, the Director of the National Collaborative for Digital Equity, and I are ready to help you in every way we can. Bob can be reached via email at rmclaughlin@digitalequity.us and together we will work to address any inquiries you send our way. We look forward to collaborating with you to ensure librarians have a voice in how this enormous amount of federal money is deployed.



Sincerely,

Roger Rosen
Chairman of the Board, The Rosen Publishing Group

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Sent by newsletter@rosenpub.com

From: Emily Dartt emily.dartt@boyle.kyschools.us
Subject: Re: Spreadsheet shared with you: "SB 150 Boyle Elementary: Books Removed"
Date: August 7, 2023 at 9:25 AM
To: Danielle Padgett danielle.padgett@boyle.kyschools.us

ED

Thank you!

On Mon, Aug 7, 2023 at 9:24 AM Danielle Padgett (via Google Sheets) <drive-shares-dm-noreply@google.com> wrote:

Danielle Padgett shared a spreadsheet



Danielle Padgett (danielle.padgett@boyle.kyschools.us) has invited you to **edit** the following spreadsheet:

I realized you didn't have access to this document - this isn't a requirement but I made a list of the books I removed at JCES but Idk if Kelly or Kristy added to it.



SB 150 Boyle Elementary: Books Removed

Open

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because danielle.padgett@boyle.kyschools.us shared a spreadsheet with you from Google Sheets.

Google Workspace

Emily Dartt
Library Media Specialist
Woodlawn Elementary School



From: Emily Dartt emily.dartt@boyle.kyschools.us
Subject: Re: Spreadsheet shared with you: "SB 150 Boyle Elementary: Books Removed"
Date: August 7, 2023 at 10:18 AM
To: Danielle Padgett danielle.padgett@boyle.kyschools.us

ED

Kristy removed several before she left. Should I place this on this document, or create my own?

On Mon, Aug 7, 2023 at 9:24 AM Emily Dartt <emily.dartt@boyle.kyschools.us> wrote:
Thank you!

On Mon, Aug 7, 2023 at 9:24 AM Danielle Padgett (via Google Sheets) <drive-shares-dm-noreply@google.com> wrote:

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SB 150 Boyle Elementary: Books Removed

Open

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You have received this email because danielle.padgett@boyle.kyschools.us shared a spreadsheet with you from Google Sheets.

Google Workspace

Emily Dartt
Library Media Specialist
Woodlawn Elementary School



Special Education and Early Learning used \$765,000 in federal funding to award scholarships to 306 graduating Kentucky high school seniors with disabilities.

The KDE Powered by Inclusion scholarship was made possible with Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding from the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. The federal funding supports the safe and sustained return to in-person learning and expands equity by supporting students who need it most, particularly those most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

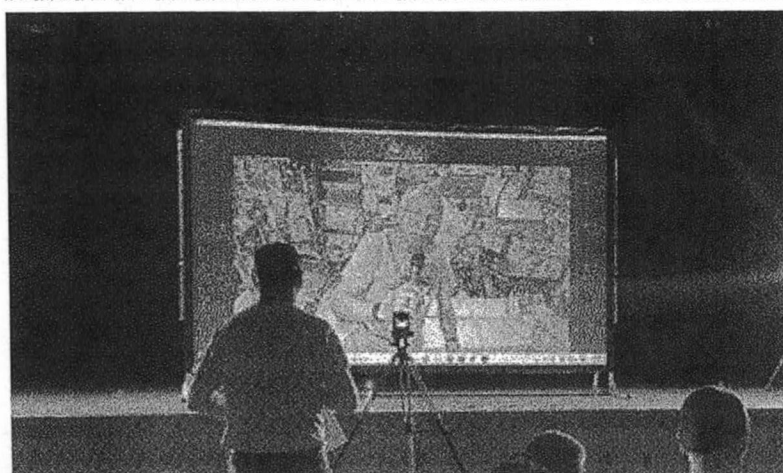
TaMyah Jones was one of the students from 116 school districts to receive a \$2,500 scholarship. She became vision impaired when she developed bilateral optic atrophy from a brain tumor when she was 6 years old.

Despite these challenges, being enrolled at the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) made it, "a little bit easier."

"All of these steps have helped to get me to the point where I am now," Jones said.

Because of her resilience, Jones' guidance counselor nominated her for the Powered by Inclusion scholarship program. She is one of two recipients from KSB to receive the scholarship this year.

Read more on Kentucky Teacher.



KDE asks School Counselors Advisory Council to provide feedback for SB 150 guidance document

Local Superintendents Advisory Council discusses next steps with Kentucky school accountability system

In case you missed it

KDE offering new sponsorship opportunities for Kentucky Teacher of the Year Program

Summer Conferences

Registration open for 2023 National Teacher Leadership Conference in Louisville this July

Registration is now open for the Kentucky History Education Conference

Register to attend the 2023 Persistence to Graduation Summit

Kentucky Center for School Safety hosts conference in June

KET to host summer professional development event for educators

Registration opens for KASA Annual Leadership Institute



Bell County astronaut John Shoffner chats with Middlesboro Independent students from International Space Station

Middlesboro Independent School students had an astronomical opportunity on May 26 when astronaut John Shoffner talked with students via video call from the International Space Station (ISS).

Shoffner, a Bell County native, is a well-achieved business leader, racecar driver and more. He is currently serving as the pilot for Axiom Space's Ax-2 mission to the ISS on the SpaceX Dragon.

It's a role Shoffner said he has prepared his whole life to fulfill and he wanted to include students as part of this opportunity.

"Including Middlesboro in my journey to the ISS was an automatic requirement of mine," he said. "My role as an astronaut should be used to inspire a higher level of achievement for students."

While seated in the Central Arts Auditorium for their discussion, students' curiosities resulted in numerous questions. They asked about his daily tasks, sneezing and food quality in space and more.

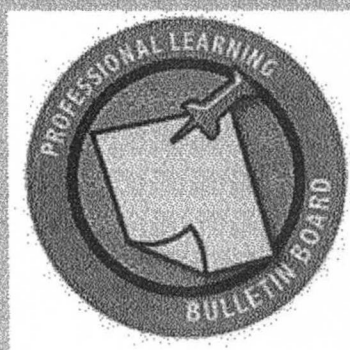
Jackson Womack, a rising 6th grader, asked if he got homesick. Shoffner said no because he brought Middlesboro along with him in many ways.

Read more on Kentucky Teacher.

Something interesting happening at your school or in your community? The Kentucky Teacher team wants to hear from you! Send your comments, photos or story suggestions to the [Kentucky Teacher email](#).

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From: Ballotpedia updates@info.ballotpedia.org
Subject: Hall Pass: Your Ticket to Understanding School Board Politics, Edition #67
Date: June 28, 2023 at 3:08 PM
To: ruthann.elliott@boyle.kyschools.us

B

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Ballotpedia's Hall Pass

Keeping you up to date on school board politics and education policy

Welcome to Hall Pass

June 28, 2023

Welcome to *Hall Pass*, a newsletter written to keep you plugged into the conversations driving school board politics and governance.

In observance of the 4th of July, we'll be taking next week off from writing this newsletter. We'll return to your inboxes on July 12. Happy Independence Day!

In today's edition, you'll find:

- On the issues: The debate over religious charter schools
- Share candidate endorsements with us!
- In your district: Pandemic learning gaps
- School board filing deadlines, election results, and recall certifications
- School board elections continue to attract attention from national political organizations
- School board recalls remain higher than pre-pandemic average
- Extracurricular: education news from around the web
- Candidate Connection survey

Share story ideas or reactions by replying to this email.

BALLOTPEdia



On the issues: The debate over religious charter schools

In this section, we curate reporting, analysis, and commentary on the issues school board members deliberate when they set out to offer the best education possible in their district.

We reported [two weeks ago](#) that the Oklahoma Statewide Virtual Charter School Board voted 5-3 to approve an application for the St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual Charter School—the nation’s first religious charter school. This week, we’re going to look at some of the arguments for and against the decision.

David French writes that religious charter schools violate the establishment and free exercise clauses of the First Amendment. French says Oklahoma’s arrangement both unconstitutionally favors religious institutions and also subjects the same institutions to state control, violating the barrier between church and state.

Jeff Jacoby writes that since charter schools are not publicly operated—only publicly funded—they do not unconstitutionally establish a religion using the state’s authority. Jacoby says state-subsidized religious schools are not substantially different from other types of religious organizations like food pantries and homeless shelters that also receive government funding.

Oklahoma Breaches the Wall Between Church and State | David French,
New York Times

“We don’t yet know if the Supreme Court will act, but the very idea that a religious institution should be either clothed with state authority or subject to state control — let alone both — is antithetical to the constitutional balance struck by the First Amendment’s establishment clause and free exercise clause. At their philosophical core, the two clauses work together to preempt the kinds of religious conflicts that have ripped apart so many nations and cultures. The establishment clause declares that no church can control the state (nor can the state control the church), thus lowering the stakes of political conflict so that politicians have minimal influence over religious

political control so that politicians have minimal influence over religious doctrine. ... Both religious liberty and religious disestablishment are vital elements of American pluralism. Oklahoma shouldn't discriminate against religious expression, but it must not create state religious schools. Clothing any church institution with state power is bad for the church and bad for the state. Oklahoma conservatives can and should advance their values through the exercise of liberty, not by breaching the barrier between church and state."

Oklahoma says yes to a religious charter school. So does the First Amendment. | Jeff Jacoby, *Boston Globe*

"Clearly, a standard public school — one operated by government employees under the supervision of a political school board — cannot be a religious enterprise. But charter schools, though publicly funded, are not publicly operated. They are organized and run by private groups and individuals; their whole *raison d'être* is to offer education unavailable in government schools. States provide money and enforce basic legal standards, but otherwise charter schools are autonomous. That's a key reason for their popularity. ... The only real distinction between charter schools and school vouchers is that charters are new schools created by private educators, whereas vouchers subsidize tuition at existing private schools. But if public dollars can underwrite a religious education via vouchers, they ought to be able to do so via charter schools. In both cases, the state's goal is to promote educational diversity and parental empowerment, not to promote religion. Many critical public services — from health care and homeless shelters to foster care and food pantries — are supplied by faith-based groups that receive government subsidies."

Share candidate endorsements with us!

As part of our goal to solve the [ballot information problem](#), Ballotpedia is gathering information about school board candidate endorsements. The ballot information gap widens the further down the ballot you go, and is worst for the more than 500,000 local offices nationwide, such as school boards or special districts. Endorsements can help voters know more about their candidates and what they stand for.

Do you know of an individual or group that has endorsed a candidate in your district?

Click [here](#) to let us know.

In your district: Pandemic learning gaps

School districts face diverse issues and challenges. We want to hear what's happening in your school district. Please complete the very brief survey below—anonymously, if you prefer—and we may share your response with fellow subscribers in an upcoming newsletter.

On June 21, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) [released](#) new data on 13-year-old students in public schools showing declines in reading and math test scores compared to tests administered in 2020.

What is the single most important thing your district should do to address learning loss?

Click [here](#) to respond!

School board filing deadlines, election results, and recall certifications

Ballotpedia has historically covered school board elections in about 500 of the country's largest districts. This year, Ballotpedia is covering elections for approximately 8,750 seats in 3,211 school districts across 28 states—or about 36% of all school board elections this year. Click [here](#) to read more about our 2023 school board coverage.

Upcoming school board elections

Washington

Washington is holding school board primary elections on **Aug. 1**. We're covering elections in the following districts:

- [Cheney School District](#)

- [Lake Washington School District](#)
- [Seattle Public Schools](#)
- [Spokane Public Schools](#)

School board elections continue to attract attention from national political organizations

On June 23, the Progressive Change Campaign Committee (PCCC), an organization that says it raises “grassroots donations for progressive candidates and committees,” [launched](#) a campaign to support school board candidates in upcoming elections. PCCC [said](#) the goal of the “Save Our School Boards” campaign is “to support over 200 progressive first-time school board candidates on gathering petition signatures, creating campaign plans, budgeting, building a grassroots army, fundraising, and meetings with campaign experts.”

PCCC, which was [founded in 2009](#) and has endorsed Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D), is the latest national organization to pledge to support and back school board candidates, the majority of which are officially nonpartisan.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, local school board elections have seen historically unprecedented involvement from national political organizations and statewide officeholders—and candidates for statewide offices—on the left and the right.

Meanwhile, Moms for Liberty’s [Joyful Warriors National Summit](#) takes place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on June 29-July 2. The summit features 2024 Republican presidential candidates, including former President Donald Trump (R), Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R), and others. [Moms for Liberty](#), founded in Florida in 2021, endorses school board candidates and says it is “dedicated to fighting for the survival of America by unifying, educating and empowering parents to defend their parental rights at all levels of government.” According to the organization’s website, Moms for Liberty has 285 chapters in 44 states.

Other state and local organizations that have supported candidates running on parental rights platforms include [Parents Defending Education](#), [No Left Turn in Education](#), the [1776 Project](#), and [Patriot Mobile Action](#). In addition to PCCC, organizations that have backed progressive candidates or candidates

PCCC, organizations that have backed progressive candidates or candidates supporting diversity programs or opposing the removal of books dealing with race and gender include Red, Wine and Blue, Democracy and Education, and Defense of Democracy.

Statewide officeholders, including governors, have also started weighing in on school board elections. DeSantis, who was Moms for Liberty's keynote speaker at its 2022 summit, endorsed 34 candidates in Florida in 2022 and recently released a list of school board elections to win in 2024. In 2023, Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R) and Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt (R) endorsed school board candidates. Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) donated \$500,000 to the Democratic Party of Illinois in February to combat what Pritzker called "extreme right-wing candidates" in school and library board elections.

You can see our 2023 list of endorsements by statewide officeholders and candidates here.

Although national organizations and statewide officeholders have not historically waded into school board elections, local groups, like Republican and Democratic county parties and teachers unions, have periodically done so. Boston College political science professor Michael Hartney found that teachers unions issued 4,436 endorsements of school board candidates in California and Florida between 1995 and 2020.

As endorsements have become more sought after in school board elections, Ballotpedia has embarked on a project to capture, track, and analyze endorsements, especially in the 10 states where we are providing comprehensive school board election coverage in 2023. Because most school board elections are nonpartisan, endorsements can provide voters with helpful information regarding candidates' stances and policy positions.

We track endorsements through reader submissions, Ballotpedia's Candidate Connection Survey, and direct outreach and research. For every recorded endorsement, we prepare a brief summary of the endorser, including any mission statements, the party the individual or organization is affiliated with, and any statements regarding a particular policy. You can learn more about our methodology for finding and analyzing endorsements here.

In Wisconsin, which held elections on April 4, we were able to identify ideological leanings for every candidate who received endorsements based on the endorser's positions and policies. In those elections, candidates with a liberal lean won 12%, candidates with a conservative lean won 9%, and

candidates who received no endorsements won 79%.

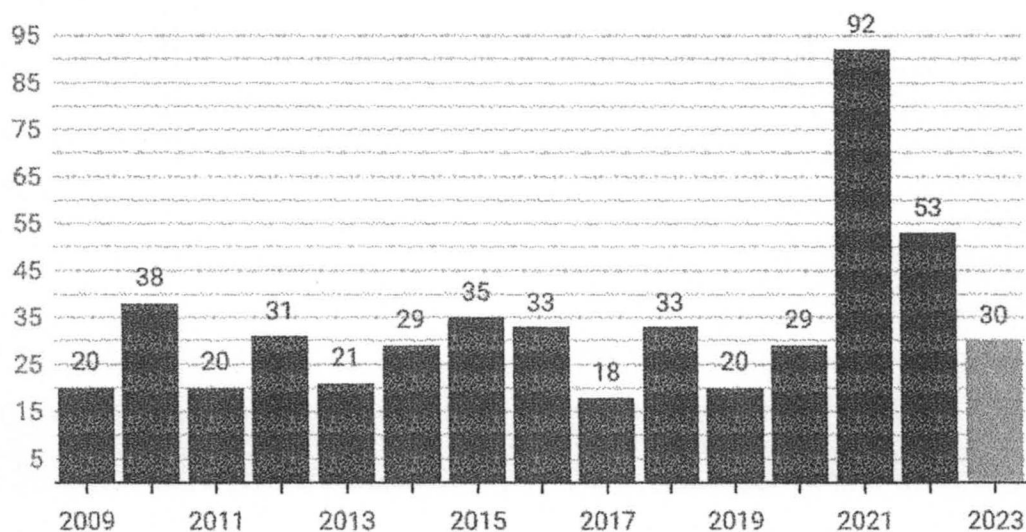
You can follow our work tracking endorsements in 2023 school board elections [here](#). If you know of an individual or group that has endorsed a candidate in your district, you can let us know at this [link](#).

School board recalls remain higher than pre-pandemic average

Last week, in anticipation of the release of our mid-year recall report, we [took a deep dive](#) into school board recalls—including the rules governing recall efforts and recent historical trends. Now that we've released our report, let's take a quick look at those recall efforts in the first part of 2023.

This year, we've tracked 149 recall efforts—and 30 have targeted school board members. **That's higher than the average of 27 school board recall efforts we tracked between 2009 and 2020.** In 2021, we tracked 92 school board recall efforts. That fell to 53 in 2022. Those two years account for the highest and second-highest number of recalls that we've tracked.

School board recall efforts by year, 2009-2023¹



¹Data for 2023 is current as of June 21, 2023

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The pandemic contributed to the spike in recall efforts against school board officials. In 2020, 10 of the 29 school board recall efforts included reasons

officials. In 2020, 10 of the 23 school board recall efforts included reasons related to the pandemic, which accounted for 34% of all school board recalls. In 2021, 54 of the 92 (59%) school board recall efforts were related to COVID, and in 2022, 22 of the 53 (42%) school board recall efforts were COVID-related.

In 2023, the number of COVID-related school board recalls decreased to one—or 3% of the total.

Of the [30 school board recall efforts](#) we've tracked in 2023, eight efforts listed conduct unbecoming of a public officer as a reason for recall, while four listed decisions to fire a superintendent or not fill a superintendent position in a timely manner. Another three efforts listed support for gender identity or transgender policies, and two listed financial trouble or mismanagement. The reasons listed on the 13 other efforts in 2023 varied from curriculum decisions and mascot changes to pleading guilty to misdemeanors and poor academic performance.

Click [here](#) to read our 2023 mid-year recall report in its entirety.

Extracurricular: education news from around the web

This section contains links to recent education-related articles from around the internet. If you know of a story we should be reading, reply to this email to share it with us!

- [Supreme Court won't hear charter school dress code case that promised broader fallout](#) | *Politico*
- [Teachers in 6 States Will Get Raises. More Could Join Them](#) | *Education Week*
- [School board OKs first step toward classical education model in elementary schools](#) | *Miami Herald*
- [How politics changed education in the Milwaukee suburbs: 'Now school is about the politics and the fear'](#) | *Boston Globe*
- [New Jersey A.G. sues 3 school districts to block schools from 'outing' transgender students to parents](#) | *Philadelphia Inquirer*
- [Suddenly, School Choice: Its Rapid Post-Pandemic Expansion Sets Up a Big Pass/Fail Test for Education](#) | *RealClearInvestigations*
- [Tennessee launches \\$194M in K-12 school safety grants](#) | *The Center Square*

- [NAEP Scores 'Flashing Red' After a Lost Generation of Learning for 13-Year-Olds | The 74](#)

Candidate Connection survey



Everyone deserves to know their candidates. However, we know it can be hard for voters to find information about their candidates, especially for local offices such as school boards. That's why we created **Candidate Connection**—a survey designed to help candidates tell voters about their campaigns, their issues, and so much more.

If you're a school board candidate or incumbent, click [here to take the survey](#). And if you're not running for school board, but there is an election in your community this year, [share the link with the candidates](#) and urge them to take the survey!

The survey contains over 30 questions, and you can choose the ones you feel will best represent your views to voters. **If you complete the survey, a box with your answers will display on your Ballotpedia profile.** Your responses will also appear in our mobile app, [My Vote Ballotpedia](#). In the 2020 election cycle, **4,745** candidates completed the survey.

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Subject: Hall Pass: Your Ticket to Understanding School Board Politics, Edition #68
Date: July 12, 2023 at 4:08 PM
To: ruthann.elliott@boyle.kyschools.us

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Ballotpedia's Hall Pass

Keeping you up to date on school board politics and education policy

Welcome to Hall Pass

July 12, 2023

Welcome to *Hall Pass*, a newsletter written to keep you plugged into the conversations driving school board politics and governance.

In today's edition, you'll find:

- On the issues: The debate over classical education
- In your district: Learning loss since the pandemic
- Share candidate endorsements with us!
- School board filing deadlines, election results, and recall certifications
- Here's what noteworthy presidential candidates are saying about K-12 education
- A look at the upcoming school board recall in Richland, Wash.
- Extracurricular: education news from around the web
- Candidate Connection survey

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SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER



On the issues: The debate over classical education

In this section, we curate reporting, analysis, and commentary on the issues school board members deliberate when they set out to offer the best education possible in their district.

Do classical education curricula and approaches to learning—which tend to emphasize ancient Greek and Roman materials—benefit students, especially in public schools? We featured a different set of perspectives on this debate in an [earlier edition](#).

Rich Lowry writes that the study of classical materials benefits students and teaches critical thinking skills and self-criticism. Lowry says classical materials have contributed significantly to modern culture, politics, and laws in ways other ancient materials have not. He says it is a mistake to reject the positive contributions of classical materials based on the repressive and non-inclusionary natures of their authors or Greek and Roman societies broadly.

Dani Bostic writes that classical curricula place too much emphasis on the positive influences of ancient Greek and Roman thought on modern culture and ignore negative influences. Bostic also says that classical materials focus too heavily on ancient European contributions to civilization and ignore the cultural, scientific, and political developments of other cultures. Bostic says that Western focus promotes white supremacy.

Are the Classics Racist? | Rich Lowry, *National Review*

“There’s quite a simple reason, though, that Greece and Rome have been subjects of study and fascination for so long — their cultural, political, and legal contributions are so vast and enduring. The Greeks gave us the example — flawed and incomplete to be sure — of democracy, and the Roman stamp is still discernible on our legal system and institutions. Western thought and literature have proceeded throughout their history in dialogue with the classics, constantly interacting with the arguments, themes, and characters of those long-ago forebears. This isn’t true of other ancient societies. Of course, the Greeks and Romans were blinkered, exclusionary, repressive, and violent, but who wasn’t? Where in the ancient world did slavery not exist? What society afforded women equal status with men? Where did any ruler respect the dignity of all people? A key difference between the Greeks and Romans and the rest was that their writers critiqued and lampooned their

Romans and the rest was that their writers critiqued and lampooned their own societies. This willingness to engage in self-criticism became one of the hallmarks, and strengths, of Western culture. The critics give the Greeks and the Romans the same treatment as the American project, ignoring what was exceptional about them for a monomaniacal focus on their failings, even if the failings were commonplace everywhere else.”

The Classical Roots of White Supremacy | Dani Bostic, *Learning for Justice*

“Ancient Greece and Rome were not monolithic in terms of culture, and their geography extended outside of Europe. Students benefit from a broader conception of classics that challenges assumptions about Eurocentrism. ... But educators can’t just rethink content. We also need to teach students to be critical consumers of what they’re learning beyond our classes, where students often learn about the influence of Greco-Roman antiquity on the United States as indisputably and exclusively positive. ... So students learn about the classical roots of American government without learning about the use of classics to justify the institution of slavery. They learn about democracy in Athens but nothing of how the founders’ specious establishment of ancient Greece and Rome as the cultural forebears of American identity worked to erase the Indigenous nations already established on this land. Students deserve to know that the version of classics too often taught in today’s schools is essentially the same as the one crafted by white Americans over centuries to justify racist claims of cultural and intellectual superiority. Educators cannot convey this representation as neutral. ... This involves recognizing the ways Greco-Roman antiquity has been exploited to establish and maintain white supremacy, naming that exploitation and interrupting it.”

In your district: Learning loss since the pandemic

Note—we initially asked this question in the 6/28 edition.

School districts face diverse issues and challenges. We want to hear what's happening in your school district. Please complete the very brief survey below—anonymously, if you prefer—and we may share your response with fellow subscribers in an upcoming newsletter.

On June 21, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) released new data on 13-year-old students in public schools showing declines in reading

and math test scores compared to tests administered in 2020.

What is the single most important thing your district should do to address learning loss?

Click [here](#) to respond!

Share candidate endorsements with us!

As part of our goal to solve the [ballot information problem](#), Ballotpedia is gathering information about school board candidate endorsements. The ballot information gap widens the further down the ballot you go, and is worst for the more than 500,000 local offices nationwide, such as school boards or special districts. Endorsements can help voters know more about their candidates and what they stand for.

Do you know of an individual or group that has endorsed a candidate in your district?

Click [here](#) to let us know.

School board filing deadlines, election results, and recall certifications

Ballotpedia has historically covered school board elections in about 500 of the country's largest districts. We're gradually expanding the number we cover with our eye on the more than 13,000 districts with elected school boards.

Upcoming school board elections

Washington

Washington is holding school board primary elections on **Aug. 1**. We're covering elections in the following districts:

- [Cheney School District](#)
- [Lake Washington School District](#)

- [Lake Washington School District](#)
- [Seattle Public Schools](#)
- [Spokane Public Schools](#)

Kansas

Three seats on the Wichita Public Schools school board are up for election on Nov. 7. A primary is scheduled **Aug. 1** for the At-Large seat, but primaries for Districts 3 and 4 were canceled because not enough candidates filed.

- [Wichita Public Schools](#)

Here's what noteworthy presidential candidates are saying about K-12 education

K-12 education has emerged as an early focal point on the 2024 presidential campaign trail. With 481 days to go until the November general election, Republican and Democratic candidates are staking out positions on everything from state and federal education policies to district-level debates over curriculum and gender identity.

In [2016](#) and [2020](#), we tracked presidential candidates' positions on education.

In this week's edition, we'll look at recent statements on education from the following [noteworthy presidential candidates](#)—former President Donald Trump (R), President Joe Biden (D), Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R), former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R), former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R), and tech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy (R).

We track 2024 presidential candidates [here](#) and issue periodic updates on campaign activity in our [Daily Brew](#) newsletter. We've identified **three** noteworthy Democratic presidential candidates and **13** noteworthy Republican candidates. [Robert F. Kennedy Jr.](#) (D), [Marianne Williamson](#) (D), [Doug Burgum](#) (R), [Chris Christie](#) (R), [Larry Elder](#) (R), [Will Hurd](#) (R), [Mike Pence](#) (R), [Tim Scott](#) (R), [Corey Stapleton](#) (R), and [Francis Suarez](#) (R) have not made any recent statements regarding K-12 public education and for that reason are not included below.

Contact editor@ballotpedia.org or reply to this email to send us presidential candidate education statements

Trump

On June 30, Trump addressed Moms for Liberty's annual summit. Moms for Liberty is a nonprofit organization founded in Florida in 2021 that has become active in endorsing school board candidates. Read more about Moms for Liberty here.

In his speech, Trump said, "On day one, I will sign a new executive order to cut federal funding for any school pushing critical race theory, transgender insanity, and other inappropriate racial, sexual, or political content on our children." Trump also said he wanted to return education to the states, a sentiment he expressed in March when he told reporters he'd eliminate the Department of Education if elected: "We spend more money per pupil and we're always at the bottom of a list of 40 countries. And we should close it up and let local areas, and frankly, states, handle education."

Trump's 2024 campaign website lists "Protect Parents Rights" as one of his top issues: "President Trump will reward states and school districts that abolish teacher tenure for grades K-12 and adopt Merit Pay, cut the number of school administrators, adopt a Parental Bill of Rights, and implement the direct election of school principals by the parents."

Biden

Biden spoke to a gathering of National Education Association (NEA) members on July 4. The NEA is the country's largest teachers union. Biden said, "Let's stand with teachers and educators against politicians who are trying to score political points by banning books. Did you all ever think you'd be in a situation, in the United States of America, we're talking about banning books? And the people deciding what books to ban? Come on. That's not who we are."

On March 6, Biden released his budget plan for the federal government for Fiscal Year 2024, which begins Oct. 1. Biden is seeking \$90 billion for the Department of Education—a 13.6% increase from 2023.

Biden's 2024 campaign website does not include a section on education.

DeSantis

Like Trump, DeSantis spoke at the Moms for Liberty summit on June 30. The

organization previously tapped DeSantis to keynote its 2022 summit. DeSantis represented Florida in the U.S. House before he was elected governor in 2018.

DeSantis said, “We have enacted a parents bill of rights in the state of Florida because we understand that the purpose of our school systems are to support the communities, to support students and parents. It is not to supersede the rights of parents. Parents—parents have a fundamental right to direct the education and upbringing of their children.” DeSantis also said, “We’ve signed universal education savings account legislation, so the money will follow the student and the parent and you’re in a situation where you can make intelligent decisions.”

DeSantis’ 2024 campaign website does not include a page breaking down his stance on education.

Haley

Haley was the U.N. Ambassador in the Trump administration and the former governor of South Carolina. At the Moms for Liberty summit on June 30, Haley said, “Parents should be able to decide which schools their kids go to. We don’t need a child going to school based on a zip code or where they are born and raised. Every child deserves a good education and every parent deserves to know what is being taught and where they are being taught.” Haley’s campaign website states, “As governor, Nikki successfully pushed for education reform that focused on improving education for South Carolina’s poorest students. She also signed a charter school bill that expanded school choice, and signed a bill eliminating the federal government’s Common Core standards.”

Hutchinson

Hutchinson was the governor of Arkansas from 2015 to 2023. Hutchinson spoke at the Moms for Liberty summit on July 1. Hutchinson said, “I also supported choice in education, and I mentioned computer science because this is important. When you are engaged in the school system, we want to give our children every opportunity to make a good living when they finish. and I set a goal to put computer science into every high school in Arkansas.” Hutchinson also said, “We created a transparency law that I signed into law, that said school districts must put their curriculum of what they are teaching the children online where there is transparency and parents can know what is being taught.”

As the chair of the National Governors Association (NGA) in 2021, Hutchinson said he intended Arkansas' requirement that all high schoolers take a computer science class to be a model for other states.

Hutchinson's 2024 campaign website does not include his stance on education.

Ramaswamy

Ramaswamy founded a pharmaceutical company, Roivant Sciences, where he was chief executive officer through 2021. At the Moms for Liberty summit, Ramaswamy promised to shut down the U.S. Department of Education and redirect that funding to school choice programs around the country. Ramaswamy said that as a precondition for receiving the money, he would require states to "write their contracts in a way that stops the public school teachers from entering teachers unions."

Aside from a line about shutting down the Department of Education, Ramaswamy's 2024 campaign website does not include an education plan.

A look at the upcoming school board recall in Richland, Wash.

You may have seen this story in the July 10 edition of The Daily Brew. In each edition, you'll find three quick stories to help you understand local, state, and federal politics. Click here to subscribe.

On June 21, we released our mid-year recall report looking back at recall election efforts since the start of the year. Today, we're looking ahead at an upcoming recall in Washington's Richland School District on Aug. 1. This recall involves three of the five members of the school board: M. Semi Bird, Audra Byrd, and Kari Williams.

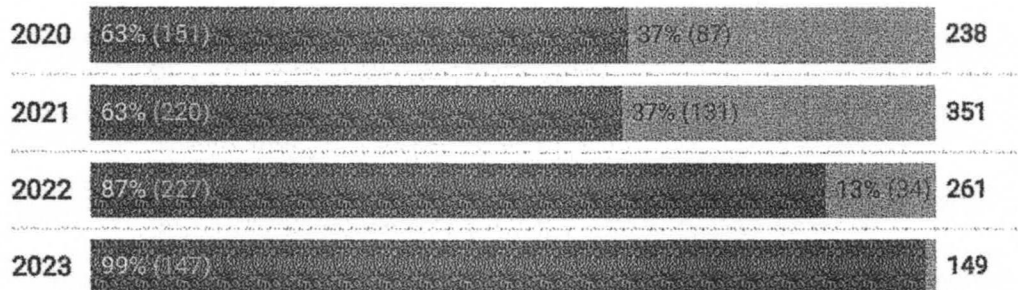
Recall supporters said this effort stems from a special meeting held on Feb. 15, 2022, amid the coronavirus pandemic, when the three members voted to make masks optional while a statewide mask requirement was in place. Supporters also allege the members collaborated ahead of the meeting in violation of the state's Open Public Meetings Act.

Bird, Byrd, and Williams all denied any wrongdoing. Williams said, "The general feeling for us is that this has always been about students. Giving

general feeling for us is that this has always been about students ... Giving families a mask choice option was doing what was best for every child.” The number of COVID-19 related recalls has declined in recent years. In 2020 and 2021, such recalls accounted for 37% of all recall efforts nationwide. That number fell to 13% in 2022 and to 1% this year.

Coronavirus-related recall efforts since 2020

Showing the percentage of coronavirus-related recall efforts as compared to all efforts for other reasons since 2020. The total number of recall efforts is shown to the right of each bar.



Recall efforts that spanned multiple years are counted towards each respective year's totals.

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Overall, there have been 133 coronavirus-related recall efforts. Most of those—110, or 83%—never made it to the ballot. Voters approved five efforts (4%), removing officials from office, and defeated 15 efforts (11%).

Extracurricular: education news from around the web

This section contains links to recent education-related articles from around the internet. If you know of a story we should be reading, reply to this email to share it with us!

- [Religious right gets blindsided by angry parents in a Southern California school district | Politico](#)
- [Supreme Court Skirts Question of Whether Charter Schools are Public | The 74](#)
- [It's Getting Hard to Stage a School Play Without Political Drama | The New York Times](#)
- [NYC's rising graduation rates bucked national trends. A little-known grading policy may hold clues. | Chalkbeat New York](#)
- [Districts used 2,591 ed tech tools on average in 2022-23 | K-12 Dive](#)
- [Missouri Parents Can Be Jailed if Their Kids Aren't in School Regularly |](#)

Candidate Connection survey



Everyone deserves to know their candidates. However, we know it can be hard for voters to find information about their candidates, especially for local offices such as school boards. That's why we created Candidate Connection—a survey designed to help candidates tell voters about their campaigns, their issues, and so much more.

If you're a school board candidate or incumbent, click [here to take the survey](#). And if you're not running for school board, but there is an election in your community this year, [share the link with the candidates](#) and urge them to take the survey!

The survey contains over 30 questions, and you can choose the ones you feel will best represent your views to voters. If you complete the survey, a box with your answers will display on your Ballotpedia profile. Your responses will also appear in our mobile app, [My Vote Ballotpedia](#).

In the 2020 election cycle, 4,745 candidates completed the survey.

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